

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS:PFOR, PO. ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 1731.

1. WE APPRECIATE REFTEL ESTIMATE OF INDONESIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND JAKARTA'S ANALYSIS OF LIKELY INDONESIAN REACTION TO U.S. INITIATIVE AIMED AT DISSUADING GOI FROM FORCEFUL TAKEOVER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INDONESIANS ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TOWARD TIMOR AT THIS TIME AND THAT ANYTHING WE MIGHT SAY TO THEM ABOUT IT COULD CREATE PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS.

2. REACTION HERE TO INDONESIAN OCCUPATION OF TIMOR WOULD DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES. PEACEFUL TAKEOVER THAT APPEARS TO HAVE APPROVAL OF TIMORESE POPULACE WOULD CREATE NO ADVERSE REACTION. ON OTHER HAND, IF INDONESIAN TROOPS CROSS BORDER

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GOA-STYLE WITH LITTLE OR NO PRETEXT, CLASH WITH DEFENDING

UNITS AND SEIZE TERRITORY IN FACE OF APATHETIC OR HOSTILE POPULATION, WE WOULD EXPECT REACTION TO BE ADVERSE, ALTHOUGH LIMITED BY LACK OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OR INTEREST IN TIMOR. USE OF US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN INDONESIAN INVASION WOULD MAKE SITUATION JUST THAT MUCH WORSE.

3. WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID SUCH A SITUATION IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT INVOLVE USG. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT OF AUSTRALIANS, AS REGARDS POSSIBLE INDONESIAN MOVE AGAINST TIMOR? WE PRESUME IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR GOA, WITH ADDED CONSIDERATION THAT AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC REACTION TO INDONESIAN MILITARY MOVE WOULD BE MORE ADVERSE IN VIEW OF FAR GREATER AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN TERRITORY. AFTER INTELLIGENCE BRIEF ON TIMOR HAS BEEN PASSED TO GOA THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS, EMBASSY CANBERRA MIGHT BRING MATTER UP WITH DFA (PERHAPS WITH RENOUF), ASKING HOW DFA VIEWS SITUATION IN LIGHT THIS INFO, WHETHER AUSTRALIANS HAVE ANY CORROBORATIVE INFO AND WHETHER THEY HAVE DEVELOPED PLANS TO DEAL WITH SITUATION.

4. IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN STATEMENTS, THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY A) CAUTION INDONESIANS ABOUT UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES OF AN ILL-CONCEIVED MILITARY MOVE AGAINST TIMOR; AND B) INDICATE THAT AUSTRALIA AND THAT INDONESIA'S OTHER FRIENDS DO NOT HAVE SLIGHTEST DESIRE TO BLOCK MERGER OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR WITH INDONESIA PROVIDED IT DONE IN ACCORD WITH WISHES OF TIMORESE POPULATION.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE COMMENTS ON FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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